

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. An apparatus for processing a playback signal, said apparatus comprising:

a playback means for reproducing information recorded on a recording medium;

a character-information detecting means for detecting character information recorded in an information control area of said recording medium and reproduced by said playback means;

a character-string searching means for searching character information detected by said character-information detecting means for a string of characters representing address information; and

an address-information generating means for generating address information on the basis of a search result output by said character-string searching means.

2. An apparatus according to claim 1 further having:

a display means for displaying said character information; and

a display control means for displaying said address information in a format different from formats of pieces of other character information on said display means along with said pieces of other character information.

3. An apparatus according to claim 2 wherein said display control means displays information indicating whether or not character information recorded in said recording medium includes address information on said display means.

4. An apparatus according to claim 2 wherein said information displayed on said display means by said display control means to indicate whether or not character information recorded in said recording medium includes address information is an icon.

5. An apparatus according to claim 2 further having an operation means for activating other software associated with said address information displayed on said display means.

6. A playback-signal processing apparatus comprising:

a memory means for storing character information reproduced from a recording medium;

✓✓ a search means for searching said character information stored in said memory means for a string of characters representing address information; and

a display control means for displaying information indicating whether or not said address information is included in said character information in accordance with

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a search result output by said search means on a display means along with said character information.

7. A playback-signal processing apparatus according to claim 6 wherein said information displayed on said display means by said display control means to indicate whether or not character information recorded in said recording medium includes address information is an icon.

8. A playback-signal processing apparatus according to claim 6 further having an operation means for activating other software associated with said address information displayed on said display means.

9. A playback-signal processing apparatus according to claim 6 wherein:

said recording medium comprises a plurality of tracks; and

said display control means displays pieces of information each indicating whether or not address information for one of said tracks is included in said character information on said display means.

10. A method for reproducing character information from a recording medium for recording audio data, said method comprising the steps of:

reproducing character information recorded on said

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recording medium;

searching said reproduced character information for a string of characters representing address information; and

displaying information indicating whether or not said address information is included in said character information in accordance with a search result on a display means along with said character information.

11. A method according to claim 10 wherein said information displayed on said display means to indicate whether or not said address information is included in said character information is an icon.

12. A method according to claim 10 wherein, when said address information is included in said character information, said address information is displayed on said display means along with said character information in a format different from a format of said character information.

13. A method according to claim 10 further having a step of activating predetermined application software in accordance with an input operation carried out for said information displayed on said display means to indicate whether or not said address information is included in said character information.